

State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Yakima Washington

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE)	
BY METHOW VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT)	
REQUESTING CHANGE TO ADD A POINT OF)	Emergency Drought
WITHDRAWAL OF WATER USE UNDER)	Change Authorization
WOLF CREEK SUPERSEDING CERTIFICATE OF)	
ADJUDICATED WATER RIGHT 14-B PAGE 10)	

In accordance with the provisions of RCW 43.83B.405, on March 14, 2001, it was ordered and determined by the Director of the Department of Ecology that the State of Washington is under drought conditions. In accordance with the provisions of WAC 176-166-060, the Department of Ecology is under the terms of this Order, issuing an EMERGENCY DROUGHT CHANGE AUTHORIZATION. The intent of this authorization is to alleviate hardships and reduce the burdens on water users arising from the drought conditions.

Background

On April 12, 2001, Methow Valley School District filed an application to change an existing water right in Okanogan County. Irrigation on their lands is authorized under Wolf Creek Superseding Certificate of Adjudicated Water Right 14-B Page 10. WAC 173-166-070 allows the state to authorize emergency drought permits authorizing temporary change of a source of water provided that the amount of water does not exceed that authorized on the existing water right.

**Superseding Surface Water Wolf Creek Certificate of Adjudicated Water Right 14-B
Page 10(Adjudicated Certificate 10)**

Adjudicated Certificate 10 was issued to Wolf Creek Reclamation District and authorizes the irrigation of 790.18 acres; 634.96 acres from either storage or instantaneous diversion from creek during irrigation season (April 1 through September 30), 155.22 acres from storage only; and community domestic supply for Sun Mountain Resort (156 rooms). The water right is confirmed in the amount of water that is reasonably and actually necessary for the purpose aforesaid and shall not exceed 30.00 cfs, when available during the storage season each year (October 1 to July 1); 13.00 cfs, from July 1 through September 30 each year; not to exceed 3,065.6 acre-feet annually.

The points of diversion from Wolf Creek are located approximately 600 feet west and 130 feet south from the N½ corner of Section 2, being within Government Lot 3 (NE¼NW¼) of Section 2, (unsurveyed) T. 34 N., R. 20 E.W.M. and 500 feet north and 150 feet west of the southeast corner of Section 2, being within the SE¼SE¼ of Section 2, (unsurveyed) T. 34 N., R. 20 E.W.M. Wolf Creek is a tributary to the Methow River.

The Methow Valley School District is authorized a portion of Adjudicated Certificate 10 in the amount of 0.92 cubic feet per second(cfs), 174.31 acre-feet per year April 1 through September 30 to irrigate 45.75 acres.

To expedite and simplify this decision Ecology has determined that the Methow Valley School District lands enjoy water rights for a full duty of water for each acre irrigated and will consider changing the point of diversion to a point of withdrawal (well).

The static water level of the Methow Valley School District's well and its location in close proximity to the Methow River clearly indicate the well is in significant hydraulic continuity with the Methow River.

Methow Valley School District Property

The Methow Valley School District Property is located approximately 3 miles south of Winthrop, Washington in Okanogan County. A portion of Adjudicated Certificate 10 is the only water right certificate appurtenant to Methow Valley School District property consisting of 45.75 acres. Approximately 40.25 acres of ball fields, play grounds, and lawn and garden are being irrigated.

The property is described as parts of the NE¼NE¼ north of Twin Lakes Road in Section 23, T. 34 N., R. 21 E.W.M. and parts of SE¼SE¼, E½SW¼SE¼, and S½NE¼SE¼ of Section 14, T. 34 N., R. 21 E.W.M.

Parcel No. 3421140026.

The Methow Valley School District property is located at the end of the Wolf Creek Reclamation District Ditch and cannot always have a dependable irrigation water supply to keep the play areas green and safe for children to play. The district is requesting authorization to change the point of diversion of their portion of Adjudicated Certificate 10 to a well on their property. The well is located approximately 600 feet west and 600 feet north from the SE corner of Section 14 within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14, T. 43 N., R. 21 E.W.M.

Conclusions and Decision

A portion of Wolf Creek Superseding Certificate of Adjudicated Water Right 14-B Page 10 is appurtenant to this property. The property has been historically and beneficially irrigated up to approximately 40.25 acres.

The aquifer the proposed well would penetrate is hydraulically connected with the Methow River.

Withdrawals from the well may cause some localized drawdown in the water table in the vicinity. Other nearby wells may be affected, however, they are not "qualifying works" (the wells do not reasonably penetrate the available aquifer) in accordance with Chapter 173-150 WAC. Therefore, lowering of the water table would not be impairment.

The addition of a point of withdrawal as an authorized source of irrigation water will not impair existing water rights, provided the water is physically available at the historic diversion location in Wolf Creek for these classes of rights, and those waters are left in stream to flow to the confluence of the Methow River.

This **DROUGHT EMERGENCY CHANGE DECISION** authorizes the addition of a point of withdrawal to Wolf Creek Superseding Certificate of Adjudicated Water Right 14-B Page 10 to pump up to 362.25 gpm and 152.95 acre-feet per year to irrigate 40.25 acres. The place of use is described as Parts of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ north of Twin Lakes Rd. in Section 23 T. 34 N., R. 21 E.W.M. and parts of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14, T. 34 N., R. 21 E.W.M. Parcel No 3421140026.

The point of withdrawal is an existing well located within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14, approximately 600 feet west and 600 feet north from the SE corner of Section 14, T.34 N., R. 21 E.W.M.

Provisions

The following provisions shall apply to this change authorization:

- A measuring device approved by the Department of Ecology must be installed prior to use of the water.
- Bi-weekly (every 2 weeks) readings of the measuring device shall be recorded and shall include the date and time of measurement, water flow rate, volume of water, and the name of the person taking the meter readings. Within 30-days of the end of this irrigation season, the permittee shall send a copy of this data to the Central Regional Office.
- This drought emergency authorization expires on September 30, 2001.

REPORT BY: Philip M. Kerr DATE: April 30, 2001
Philip Kerr

APPROVED BY: Robert F. Barwin DATE: 4/30/2001
Robert F. Barwin, Section Manager

PK:gg
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Enclosure(s):